

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### A+ Corporation LLC

#### Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana

#### A+ Corporation Benefits from Lean Training

##### Client Profile:

A+ Corporation was founded in 1988 to design, manufacture, and sell analytical products and accessories. The privately-owned company is based out of Gonzales, Louisiana and employs 30 people. A+ Corporation maintains an international customer base.

##### Situation:

A+ Corporation was experiencing tremendous growth, particularly in the area of sales and marketing. Management recognized the need for improvements on the production floor and contacted the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPoL), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help in achieving these goals.

##### Solution:

MEPoL began by helping A+ Corporation obtain funding for their Lean manufacturing program through the Louisiana Department of Labor's Incumbent Worker Training Program (IWTP). Once funding was approved, training consisted of manufacturing overview, lean assessment, performance metrics, and Value Stream Mapping (VSM). An extensive action item plan was developed which identified areas for improvement, responsible personnel, and target dates. The facility layout changed and assembly cells were created along with a Kanban system to control the flow of materials. Shadow boards were designed and implemented to organize the tooling. Point of use storage was utilized to reduce travel distance for retrieving supplies and raw materials. During the layout change, floor space was made available for future product lines.

##### Results:

- \* Reduced work in process by 75 percent.
- \* Increased floor space by 50 percent.
- \* Reduced work orders from 10 to zero.
- \* Increased throughput.
- \* Improved employee involvement and job satisfaction.

##### Testimonial:

"Within 30 days of our first contact with the guys from MEPoL, we had funding approval from the Louisiana Department of Labor and were scheduling training classes. The Lean training provided by MEPoL was timely, relevant and well presented. With MEPoL's involvement, we have undergone a fairly extensive Lean transformation in a relatively short period of time with huge benefits to our company and employees. The bottom line is that MEPoL was truly a pleasure to work with, and our company has been transformed by smoothly flowing product through our facility with greater employee involvement and job satisfaction."

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Keith Mayeaux, President